

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 02564 271128Z

45

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 SCI-06 FEA-02 AEC-11

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 824

INFO AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PARM, OPANAL, XM

SUBJECT: OPANAL: US ADHERENCE TO PROTOCOL I

REF: A. MEX 2054; B. MEX 2341; C. STATE 51855

1. DURING THE COURSE OF MY MARCH 26 COURTESY CALL ON SECRETARY GENERAL OF ORGANIZATION FOR PROSCRIPTION OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN LATIN AMERICA (OPANAL), SYG GROS ESPIELL TOOK OCCASION ONCE AGAIN TO RAISE ISSUE OF US ADHERENCE TO PROTOCOL I TO TREATY OF TLATELOLCO (REFTEL A). REPEATING HIS WELL-KNOWN POSITION, GROS STATED THAT SINCE RESERVATIONS PERMISSIBLE IN REGARD TO PROTOCOL I, IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR US TO SIGN CONCERNING AREAS ALREADY INDICATED AS BEING NON-CONTROVERSIAL (I.E. THE CANAL ZONE AND GUANTANAMO BAY) WHILE RESERVING ITS POSITION ON OTHER AFFECTED AREAS (I.E. PUERTO RICO AND THE VIRGIN ISLANDS).

2. IN EXPLORING THIS IDEA, I ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THERE WAS CONCEIVABLE POLITICAL GAIN IN BEING RESPONSIVE TO THIS
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PAGE 02 MEXICO 02564 271128Z

EXTENT. AT SAME TIME I RAISED QUESTION OF WHETHER NON-

APPLICABILITY TO PUERTO RICO AND VIRGIN ISLANDS MIGHT NOT MAKE US DECISION MORE CONTROVERSIAL THAN NO ACTION AT ALL. TO THIS, GROS ESPIELL, SUPPORTED BY OPANAL SECRETARY ANTONIO GONZALEZ DE LEON, RESPONDED BY STATING THAT BENEFITS OF EVEN PARTIAL US ADHERENCE WOULD BE SO GREAT THAT DEFERRING DECISION (WHICH, AFTER ALL IS NOT A DEFINITE "NO") ON PUERTO RICO AND THE VIRGIN ISLANDS WOULD NOT BE MAJOR NEGATIVE FACTOR. GROS ESPIELL NOTED THAT HE WILL BE ATTENDING OAS GA IN ATLANTA, WHERE HE HOPES TO ADDRESS PLENARY TO REVIEW STATUS OF TREATY OF TLATELOLCO. HE ALSO NOTED THAT ISSUE LIKELY WILL BE RAISED AT NEXT UNGA (REFTEL B). ACCORDINGLY, HE URGED THAT USG GIVE FURTHER THOUGHT TO SIGNING OF PROTOCOL I. BOTH GROS ESPIELL AND GONZALEZ DE LEON FELT THAT A SIDE EFFECT OF POSITIVE USG RESPONSE ON TUANTANAMO WOULD BE TO LESSEN STRENGTH OF CUBAN ARGUMENTS FOR NOT ADHERING TO TREATY.

3. I INFORMED SYG GROS ESPIELL OF USG WILLINGNESS TO NOMINATE PERMANENT OBESERVER (REFTEL C). GROS ESPIELL EXPRESSED HIS SATISFACTION AT THIS NEWS AND STATED THAT THIS WAS SAME FORMULA OFFERED BY UK, GERMANY, AND THE NETHERLANDS. HE ALSO STATED THAT MEXICO, BOLIVIA AND URUGUAY HAD FORMALLY NOTIFIED OPANAL SECRETARIAT OF INTENTION OF ESTABLISHING PERMANENT REPRESENTATION; OTHER LATIN AMERICANS (UNSPECIFIED) VERBALLY HAD INDICATED THEIR INTENTION TO DO SO. THUS FAR THERE ARE NO NEGATIVE REACTIONS TO THIS INITIATIVE.

4. GROS ESPIELL STATED THAT FRANCE HAD RATIFIED PROTOCOL II LATE LAST WEEK. HE ANTICIPATES THAT PRC WILL RATIFY IN ABOUT A MONTH, THEREBY COMPLETING PROTOCOL II ACTION FOR ALL BUT USSR.

5. COMMENT AND RECOMMENDATIONS: I AM CONVINCED THAT EVEN PARTIAL ADHERENCE TO PROTOCOL I WOULD, INDEED, HAVE AN IMPORTANT POSITIVE POLITICAL IMPACT AMONG LATIN AMERICANS. SINCE USG PREVIOUSLY HAS GONE ON RECORD AS STATING THAT WE WOULD HAVE NO DIFFICULTY IN APPLICATION OF PROTOCOL I TO CANAL ZONE AND GUANTANAMO BAY, AND SINCE OPANAL SECRETARIAT IS OF OPINION THAT PARTIAL APPLICABILITY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 MEXICO 02564 271128Z

IS POSSIBLE UNDER TREATY, THIS SEEMS TO OFFER OPPORTUNITY FOR DECISION WHICH COULD CAPITALIZE ON "SPIRIT OF TLATELOLCO" ENUNCIATED DURING RECENT MFM. IN THIS VEIN, IT WOULD SEEM BOTH POSSIBLE AND DESIRABLE FOR AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO BE MADE OF USG POSITIVE INTENT AT TIME OF ATLANTA MEETING. THIS MOST APPROPRIATELY COULD BE ACCOMPLISHED DURING SECRETARY'S MAJOR ADDRESS; CONCOMITANTLY IT WOULD GIVE AN ADDITIONAL SUBSTANTIVE POINT FOR INCLUSION IN THAT PRESENTATION.

THIS SUGGESTION PRESUMES THAT TIME IS TOO SHORT FOR FINAL
SIGNATURE DECISION TO BE MADE PRIOR TO ATLANTA. EVEN SO,
STATEMENT OF INTENT IN APRIL, FOLLOWED BY SIGNATURE
PRIOR TO FALL UNGA WOULD HAVE DOUBLE ADVANTAGE OF PLACING
USG IN POSITIVE LIGHT BEFORE BOTH BODIES CONSIDERING
THIS ISSUE. PLEASE ADVISE.
JOVA

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